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Beverly L. Richard
University of Kentucky

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DEBICKI, ANDREW P. *Poetry of Discovery: The Spanish Generation of 1956-1971*. The University of Kentucky Press, 1982. 233 pp. Clothbound. \$22.00.

Scholars of modern Spanish poetry are well acquainted with Andrew P. Debicki's publications. In Debicki's *Poetry of Discovery*, a collection of critical analyses, he closely examines the most important contemporary poets of Spain in order to comment upon their poetic revolution. This book explores a territory of literature which up to this point, has received little treatment or attention. A list of chapters includes the ten poets discussed: The Generation of 1956-1971; Francisco Brines: Text and Reader; Claudio Rodríguez: Language Codes and Their Effects; Angel González: Transformation and Perspective; Gloria Fuertes: Intertextuality and Reversal of Expectations; José Angel Valente: Reading and Rereading; Jaime Gil de Biedma: The Theme of Illusion; Carlos Sahagún: Metaphoric Transformation; Eladio Cabañero: Imagery, Style, and Effect; Angel Crespo and Manuel Mantero.

The first chapter serves as an introductory overview which presents a historical and literary summary of contemporary Spanish poetry from the Generation of 1927 through the Generation of 1956-1971. In a clear, readable style, Debicki discusses both the structural characteristics and the major themes of early twentieth-century poetry. To help the reader reach a better understanding of the contemporary generations, Debicki reexamines the characteristics and development of earlier works. He discovers that despite the artistic parallels which exist between the Generation of 1927 and the first post-war period, the newer writers begin to divorce form from meaning in order to emphasize their poetic message. This tendency later encourages an acceptance of poetry as creation, not just communication, and the importance of the work as an act of discovery. By incorporating their own individuality with the currents of modern social life, these poets are able to reach a broader audience. Debicki states that "The use of the personal and the specific, as well as the tendency to self-referentiality and to intertextual relations, helps the poetry of these writers avoid didacticism on the one hand and lachrymously confessional verse on the other."

In the chapters that follow, Debicki outlines the social background for each poet's works and discusses specific techniques used only by that particular writer. By focusing upon different poems and by employing techniques of reader-response criticism, Debicki explains how each poet guides the reader into a clearer understanding of the artist's perception of the modern world. For example, in "Gloria Fuertes: Intertextuality and Reversal of Expectations," the author examines the way in which common and even commercial language effectively serve to involve the reader in another perspective of life. One particular poem by Fuertes, "Oración," combines the traditional form of the prayer "Our Father" with earthly, humble terminology. She addresses God, who may be found even "en el torso azul del obrero,"

as a familiar acquaintance instead of as a punishing deity. Although the poem fails to conform to the reader's expectations, it delivers a fresh, personal view of the need for religion. Debicki gives close attention to many such poems.

Poetry of Discovery offers serious criticism and valuable insight to both the teacher and student of poetry. By describing and analyzing the individual characteristics of the Spanish Generation of 1956-1971, Debicki reveals that these writers have much in common: the use of everyday language, intertextual references, reader involvement, metaphoric transformation and contemporary dilemmas. His careful study of these contemporary poets emphasizes the importance of post-Civil War themes to modern society.

BEVERLY L. RICHARD

University of Kentucky